

Follow this family activity outline for a service-centered discussion and activity that can be done in one evening with minimal preparation. Make sure to print out the kit pages and check that you have all the ingredients to make the cookies before gathering everyone together.

Family Activity

Jesus Cared for His Loved Ones and So Can You



DISCUSSION: How Did Jesus Serve? How Can We Serve?

1. How did Jesus treat his loved ones?
2. Even though Jesus was very busy helping and healing others, he made time to serve his friends and family.
3. Summarize and discuss a story or two of Jesus serving his loved ones.
Examples are:
 - The story of Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead found in John chapter 11.
 - The story of Jesus washing his apostles feet found in John chapter 13.
 - The story of Jesus turning water into wine found in John chapter 2.
4. Read John 15:13 together and discuss it.
5. What can we do to follow Jesus's example of serving loved ones?

ACTIVITY: Gingerbread Garland

Cut out the gingerbread people provided in this kit or color the blank ones to create your own. Let each family member pick a gingerbread person to represent him/her. As they share an idea of how to serve, attach the hands with string or a brad to create a garland. Add more gingerbread people as you serve others.

TREAT: Gingerbread Cookies

Make some yummy gingerbread cookies together. Encourage each family member to create a special cookie to share with someone else. You can put the cookies in a box to deliver or put one in a sandwich bag and attach a tag.

SERVICE: Choose Someone to Serve

As a family, choose someone to serve. This could be as simple as calling a grandparent, visiting a cousin, or stopping by a friend's house.

If you are making a visit, share some cookies in a special box. Assemble the gingerbread house cookie box included in the printable kit. Place some of the gingerbread cookies you made in the box. Choose a tag to attach. Deliver the cookies.



#LIGHT *the* WORLD

Cut out the pieces.
Share ways to serve.
Join the hands together
to make a garland.



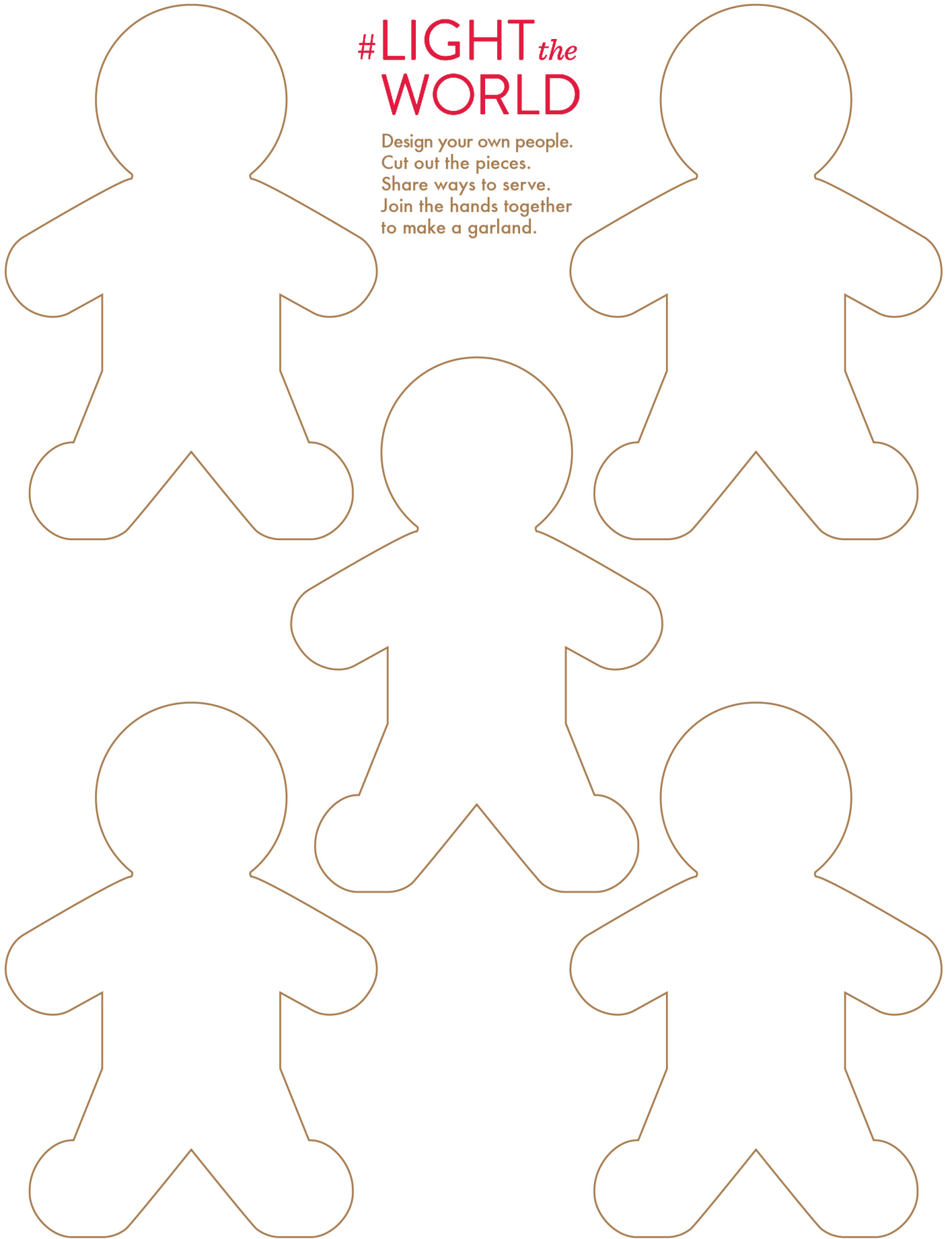
#LIGHT *the* WORLD

Cut out the pieces.
Share ways to serve.
Join the hands together
to make a garland.



#LIGHT *the* WORLD

Design your own people.
Cut out the pieces.
Share ways to serve.
Join the hands together
to make a garland.



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Design Your Own Gingerbread People Garland
designedbymaria.com with theredheadedhostess.com

#LIGHT *the* WORLD

Try this soft and yummy gingerbread cookie recipe! Have each family member create a special cookie for a loved one. Then, share some with your friends.

Cut the recipe out and attach the directions to the back of the ingredient list to make a cute 4" x 6" card to save and share next year.

Gingerbread Cookies

From Lynda Payne via Sarah Halterman
modified by Maria Fannesbeck

INGREDIENTS:

1 cup shortening
1 cup molasses
1 tsp. baking soda
½ cup hot water
1 cup sugar
1 egg

1 tsp. vanilla
1 tsp. cinnamon
½ tsp. ginger
¼ tsp. cloves
1 tsp. salt
5 ½ cups flour



DIRECTIONS:

Bring shortening and molasses to boil in a large pan. Boil for one minute. Then, remove from heat.

In a small bowl, dissolve the baking soda into the water. Add this to the molasses mixture. Careful, this will bubble to twice its size.

Mix in remaining seven ingredients, except the flour. Then, add the flour. The dough stiffens as it sits.

Roll the dough to about ¼ thick. Cut your gingerbread shapes out and place them on lightly greased cookie sheets.

Bake at 375° for 8-10 min. Add your favorite icing or candies when cooled, if desired.

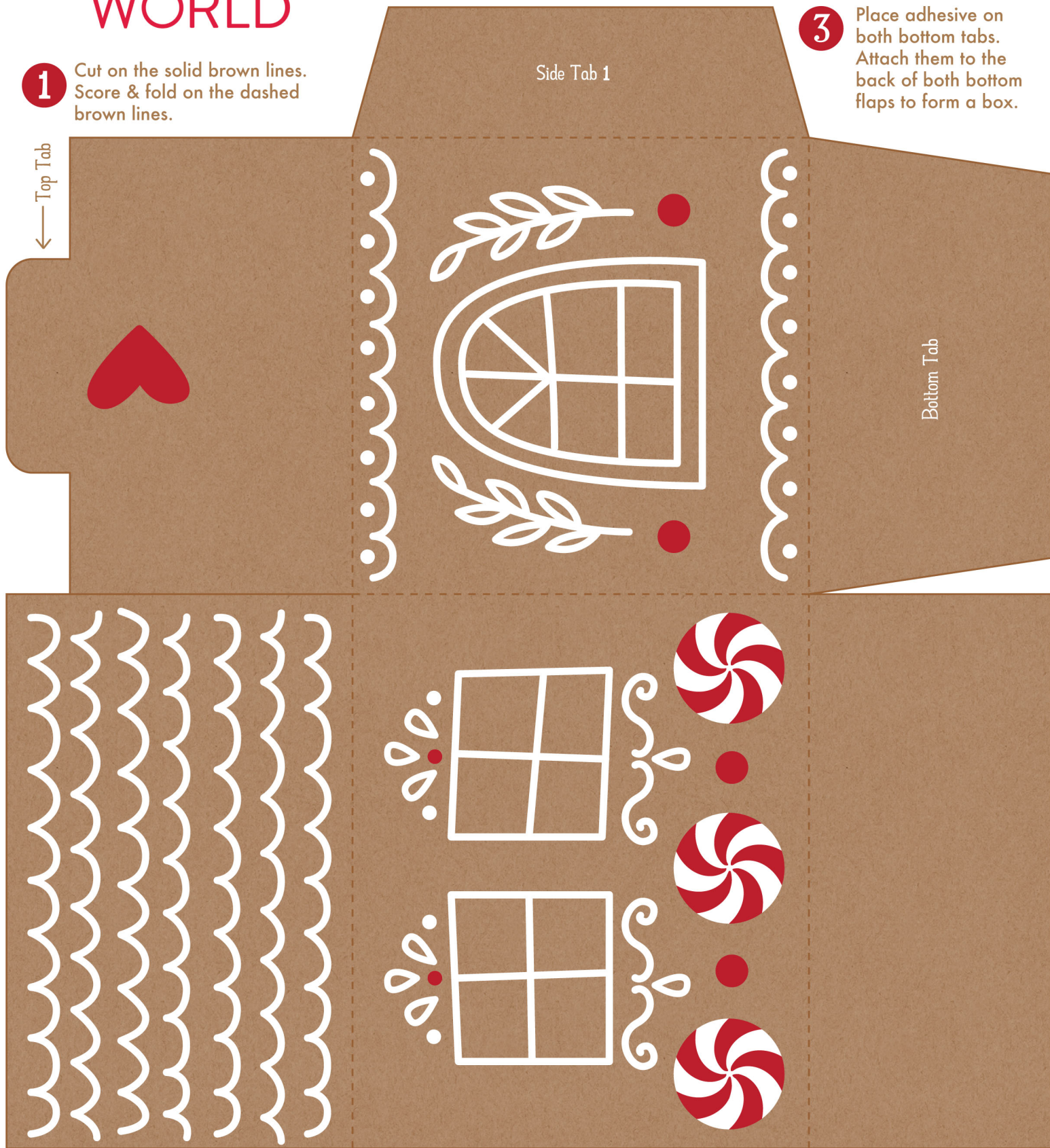


#LIGHT *the* WORLD

1 Cut on the solid brown lines. Score & fold on the dashed brown lines.

2 Place adhesive on side tab 1 and attach it to the area indicated on template #2.

3 Place adhesive on both bottom tabs. Attach them to the back of both bottom flaps to form a box.



↑ Attach Side Tab 2 to the Back of this Area ↓

↑ Bottom Flap



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Gingerbread House Cookie Box - Template #1
designedbymaria.com with thereheadedhostess.com

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4 Place adhesive on tab 2 and attach it to the area indicated on template #1.

5 After filling, tuck top tab into top slit to close the box.

6 Fasten roof ridge together with tape, string or ribbon.

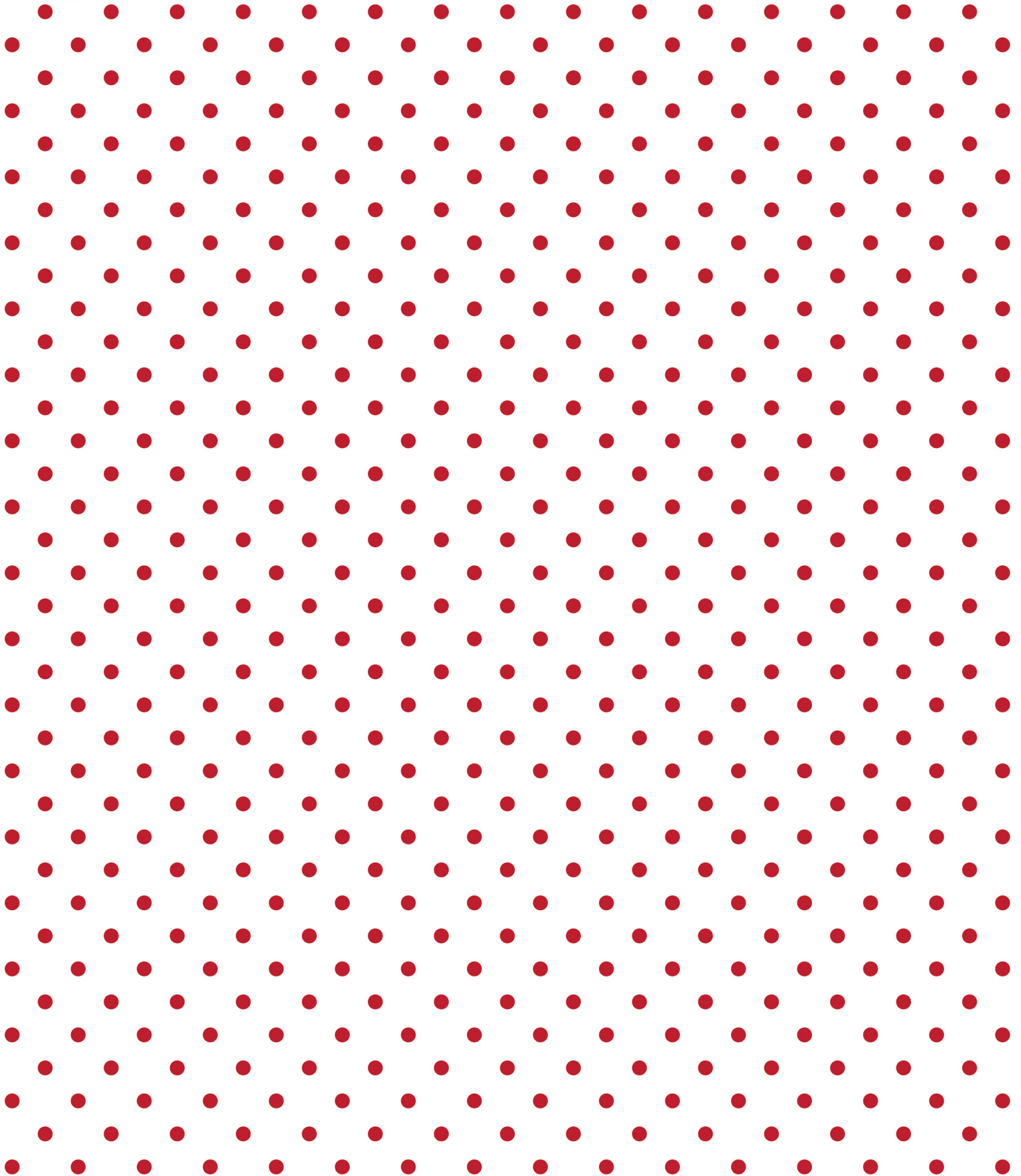


↑ Attach Side Tab 1 to the Back of this Area ↓

↑ Bottom Flap

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WORLD

Print this pattern on the back side of your gingerbread house cookie box templates if you would like a design inside the box or use it for whatever you'd like!



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Bonus Polkadot Pattern
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Print these tags. Cut them out. Punch a hole in the top. Attach to your gift with ribbon or string tied through the hole. Merry Christmas!

